

Abstract

Laïcité is a very strict form of religious neutrality in France created in 1905 by the law separating the church and state. It was nevertheless one of the hot topics of the French presidential elections in 2017. Nowadays France is a country with the biggest Jewish and Muslim populations in Europe. With a demography so different from the one in 1905 France is today having a debate over the relevance of the definition of laïcité by the more than 100 years law. In this paper, the author studies whether the notion and interpretation *laïcité* has changed. By comparing political discourse in both 1905 and 2017, author aims to find out which presidential candidates in the 2017 election define laïcité in accordance with the its creators and with the law itself, what happened with the minority opinions that were not implemented in the law and whether they are still present in the debate and what new opinions and interpretations exist today but not during the legislative process in 1905.